INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State ACTION COPY

SECRET

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ivan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXCISED MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
6-28-67

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BUNKER

REF: STATE 21549

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN DO THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 AND READ THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM. HE WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED AND EXPRESSED HIS WARMEST APPRECIATION FOR YOUR THOUGHTS.

2. I CHOSE TO READ THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MESSAGE TO HIM RATHER THAN TO TRANSMIT THE FULL TEXT IN WRITING SINCE I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE BEST AT THIS STAGE NOT TO PUT ANYTHING ON THE WRITTEN

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 28876 S E C R E T
RECORD PRESSING DO TO GIVE UP HIS IDEA OF RUNNING FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE. HE IS DESPARATELY SEEKING ADVICE ON HIS DIFFICULT PERSONAL DECISION, AND ABOVE ALL, HOPING FOR SOME INDICATION OF AMERICAN ATTITUDE ON A POSSIBLE THIEU-DO TICKET. YOU HAVE NO DOUBT SEEN MY TELEGRAM (SAIGON 28815) REPORTING ON MY JUNE 24 LUNCHEON WITH HIM. THIEU HAS BEEN CONTINUING TO URGE HIM TO RUN AS HIS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND DO HAS PROMISED HIM A FINAL REPLY BY THE MORNING OF JUNE 27.

3. IF DO SHOULD RUN AS THIEU'S FELLOW CANDIDATE, OR EVEN ON A SENATE TICKET OPPOSED TO KY, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS FOREIGN MINISTER DURING MUCH OF THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS. IN EFFECT, HE IS LIKELY TO BE A LAME-DUCK FOREIGN MINISTER WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND IF HE CHOOSES TO RUN, HE WILL PROBABLY BE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN PREPARATIONS AND CAMPAIGNING BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER.

4. DO SEEMED FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT EVEN IF HE RUNS ON AN OPPOSING TICKET, HE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE AGAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER IF,

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FOR EXAMPLE, KY SHOULD BE ELECTED. I AM LESS SANGUINE THAN HE, BUT IT AT LEAST REMAINS A POSSIBILITY. DO SAID IT WOULD OTBBEURSE BE MORE LIKELY IF WE WERE TO MAKE KNOWN OUR WISH THAT HE CONTINUE.

5. COMMENT: DO SEEMED TO FEEL IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THAT HE COULD CONTINUE AS FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE RUNS ON A SENATE TICKET, BUT I WOULD THINK IT MUCH LESS LIKELY IF HE DECIDES TO BE THIEU'S VICE- PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. DO HAD ALREADY IN EFFECT ADMITTED TO LANSDALE IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION TODAY THAT THIEU WAS PROBABLY BIDDING FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT AND ASSOCIATION BY HAVING DO RUN WITH HIM. DO WASN'T CONFIDENT THAT A THIEU-DO TICKET WOULD WIN, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD CUT HEAVILY INTO THE PROSPECTS OF OTHER CANDIDATES. I AGREE, AND KY'S IN PARTICULAR.

BUNKER
BT
PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, 6/26/67, 10:00 AM

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